

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: FEA STUDY IN VENEZUELA

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL OF AUGUST 22 FRONT PAGES REPORT THAT "AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK WILL MEET MINES MINISTER VALENTIN HERNANDEZ THIS AFTERNOON TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ALLEGED SUPPRESSION OF AN FEA OIL STUDY HERE." REPORT SAYS MINES MINISTER WILL ALSO MEET WITH LOCAL HEADS OF MOBIL OIL AND SHELL, AND HAS ALREADY MET WITH LOCAL CREOLE CHIEF. DAILY JOURNAL STORY, AS WELL AS THE VERNACULAR CARACAS DAILIES, REPORT THAT THE DELEGATE COMMITTEE OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS AUGUST 21 PASSED A RESOLUTION, PROPOSED BY THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY, INSTRUCTING FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT AND MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER HERNANDEZ TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE DELEGATE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF THE FEA OIL STUDY. (THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS IS PRESENTLY IN RECESS).

2. IN ADDITION, THE AUGUST 22 DAILY JOURNAL CARRIES ANOTHER STORY REPORTING THAT THE INFLUENTIAL PRESIDENT OF PRO-VENEZUELA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REINALDO CERVANI, HAD CALLED ON MINISTER HERNANDEZ AUGUST 21 IN

ORDER "TO INVITE FEA LAWYER ROBERT KRUEGER HERE TO DISCUSS VENEZUELA'S OIL SITUATION AND THE ROLE INDUSTRY WILL PLAY IN THE WORLD ENERGY PICTURE ONCE IT IS NATIONALIZED." CERVINI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE MINISTER "SHOULD NOT ONLY INVESTIGATE THE REASONS KRUEGER DID NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS HERE, BUT ALSO REQUEST THE FEA TO SEND DUREGER OR ANOTHER OFFICIAL HERE TO DISCUSS THE OIL SITUATION WITH VENEZUELAN LEADERS." THE DAILY JOURNAL STORY GOES ON TO QUOTE CERVINI AS DENOUNCING THE INFLUENCE U.S. OIL COMPANIES EXERT OVER U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

3. COMMENT: IN POINT OF FACT, MY APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER HERNANDEZ WAS MADE AT MY REQUEST FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING THE EMBASSY'S NEW ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND THE NEW PETROLEUM ATTACHE, AND MINISTER HERNANDEZ APPARENTLY HAS SEIZED ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE REAL REASON FOR MY CALL IS TO PURSUE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED US BY THE FEA STUDY.
MCCLINTOCK

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